



## **CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY**

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports more than 400 Americans die from carbon monoxide poisoning every year. The gas is odorless, colorless and can be fatal if too much is inhaled. Follow these safety tips to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

### **COMMON CARBON MONOXIDE PRODUCERS**

Multiple household items produce carbon monoxide. Proper ventilation, operation and maintenance are important in making sure these items remain useful and do not become harmful. Some of the most common causes of carbon monoxide poisoning include:

- Clogged chimney
- Gas or wood-burning furnace
- Vehicle running in attached garage
- Portable kerosene or gas heaters
- Using a gas or charcoal grill indoors or in garage
- Improperly installed kitchen range or vent
- Cracked or loose furnace exchanger
- Corroded or disconnected water heater vent pipe

### **CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING SYMPTOMS**

Individuals suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning can show a few or all of the following symptoms:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Weakness
- Upset stomach
- Vomiting
- Chest pain
- Confusion

## CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING PREVENTION

Unlike some emergencies, carbon monoxide poisoning can be avoided if caution is practiced. Consider these tips to help keep everyone safe.

- Park running vehicles in driveways to keep carbon monoxide from building up in the home and garage.
- During the winter, check the vehicle's exhaust pipe for snow and other debris to prevent carbon monoxide from entering the car's interior.
- Professionally clean chimney flues every year to prevent a flammable tar, called creosote, from building up.
- Dryer, furnace and stove vents should be regularly checked for debris blockage.
- Ovens, especially gas, should never be used for heating. This practice can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Portable camp stoves or fire pits should never be used indoors. Lack of ventilation can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Never use generators indoors or within 20 feet of any door, window or vent.
- If a gas powered appliance is emitting an odor, immediately call emergency personnel.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms outside each sleeping area and on every floor of a property.
- Check every carbon monoxide alarm monthly to make sure the batteries are still working.
- If an alarm sounds call emergency personnel to check all fuel-burning equipment.
- Replace carbon monoxide alarms every five years - over time, the unit's sensors become less sensitive.
- Fuel and charcoal-powered equipment should be regularly checked by a professional to verify they are operating properly.

